

REMARKS

Claims 6-11 are pending in the application, claims 1-5 having been withdrawn from consideration. Applicant hereby amends independent claim 6. For the record, claims 1-5 are hereby canceled without prejudice.

Claims 6-8 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt et al. in view of Seo. Claims 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt et al in view of Seo and further in view of Chadima. The Examiner acknowledges that Schmidt et al. fails to disclose a one-piece, hollow body portion. However, the Examiner contends that this may be gleaned from Seo, which discloses a head portion “integrally formed” with a grip portion.

Applicant has hereby amended independent claim 6 to expressly recite that the one-piece, hollow body portion is seamless. Applicant contends that there is no teaching or suggestion in either Schmidt et al. or Seo of a seamless, one-piece, hollow body portion. Schmidt’s failure in this regard has already been acknowledged. Although seams cannot be discerned in Seo’s drawings, it cannot be concluded that the casing is, in fact, seamless. As has been previously pointed out, a person of ordinary skill in the art would conclude that Seo’s casing is not seamless. Otherwise, there would be no way to install the various internal components as shown in FIG. 2. Even if one accepts that Seo fairly teaches a one-piece, hollow body portion, Seo’s casing obviously cannot be seamless. Since Seo fails to disclose a seamless casing and since there is no reasonable suggestion that the casing could be made seamless, the claims, as herein amended, are patentably distinguishable over the cited art.

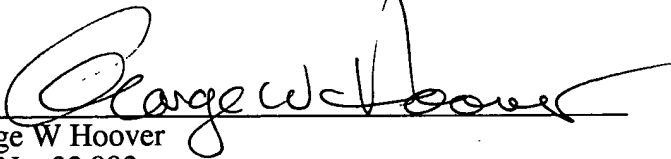
Applicant submits that claims 6-11 are in condition for allowance and notice to such effect is respectfully requested at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: November 24, 2004

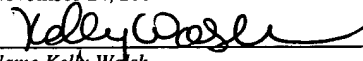
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